THE CATHOLIC RECORD.

COMPRESSED TABLETS

-OF-

BACKWOODS COURTING.

He sat on the side of the room in a big white oak rocking-chair. A long-cared deer-hound snapping at flies was by his side; a basket of sewing by hers. at flies was by his side; a basket of sewing by hers. Both rocked incessantly—that is, the young people —not the dog and basket. He sighs heavily, and looks out of the west window at a crape myrtle tree; she sighs lightly, and gazes out of the east window—at a turnip patch. At last he remarks; " "This is mightly good weather to pick cotton." " "That is—if we only had any to pick." " The rocking continues. " What's your dog's name?" " Cooney."

"What's your dog's name?
"Cooney."
A sigh-broken stillness.
"What is he good fur ?" said he, abstractedly.
"Your dog, Cooney."
"Fur ketchin' possums."
Silence of half an hour.
"He looks like a deer dog."

8

"Who looks like a deer dog ?"

"Cooney." "He is—but he's kinder bellowed, and gettin' old an' slow now. An' he ain't no 'count on a cold

In the quiet ten minutes that ensued she took two stitches in her quilt; it was a gorgeous affair; that quilt was made by the pattern called "Rose of Sharon." She is very particular about the nomen-clature of her quilt, and frequently walks fifteen nailes to get a new pattern with a "real purty name." name.

"Your ma raisin' many chickens?" "Forty odd." "Forty odd." "Forty odd." Then more rocking, and somehow after awhile the big rocking-chair and the little rocking-chair were jammed side by side. I don't know how it happened. It may have been caused by some peculiarity in the floor, or by the natural magnetic attraction one chair had for the other; but strange to say the basket of work had followed the little chair, and the little chair had travelled as fast as the big one. Cooncy had not moved. He lay in the same place sound asleep, and he was talking in his sleep—that is, giving faint, irregular barks at the possums he beheld in his dreams. After a while the conversation was resumed. "How many has your magot?"

"How many what ?"

" Chickens.

"Chickens." "Nigh on to a hundred." By this time the chairs were so close together that rocking was impossible. "The mink has eat most of ours."

"The mink has eat most of ours." "Then a long silence reigns. At last he observes : "Makin' quilts ?" "Yes," she replies, brightening up. "I've just finished a 'Roarin' Eagul of Brazeel,' a 'Sittin' Sun' and a 'Nation's Pride.' Have you ever saw the 'Yellow Rose on the Parary '?" "No."

More silence, then he says : "Do you like cabbage ?" "I do that."

"I do that." Prosently his hand is accidentally placed on hers. She does not know it; at least does not seem to be aware of it. Then, after a half-hour spent in sigh-ing, coughing and clearing of throats, he suddenly

says : "I've a great mind to bite you."

- "What you a great a-mind to bite you." "Kase you won't have me." "Kase you ain't axed me."

- "Well, now I ax you." "Then, now I has you."

Then Cooney dreams he hears a sound of kissing. Then the next day the young man goes to Tiger-yille after a marriage license. Wednesday the following week. No cards,

TAL PRIZE.

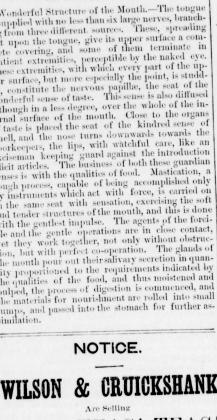
income had a nice little servant girl, who said

During slavery I owned on of blackest as well as meanest negra men in South Arkanses He was known in the neighborhood as Crow Sam, I used to thrash Sam about twice a a week, Steal! he'd steal from himself and then deny it. Well, when the war came on he was one of the first to turn against me. He went into the army and served till the surrender. After peace was made I moved over into an adjoining county and went to work, trying to repair my broken fortune. One day a negro that I had working for me knocked down one of my horses, which so enraged that I struck him several time with my cane. He went away and returned with a constable, who summoned me to appear next day before a magistrate. Officers were

HE SETTLED IT WITHOUT MALICE.

not quite so numerous then as now, and the magistrate's office was several miles away. Well, sir, when I got there who should I see on the bench but old Crow Sam. When every-

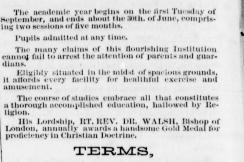
of the nigger havn't revoluted. Dis nigge







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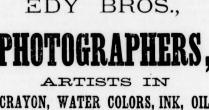
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to him one morning: "Oh, if you please won't you give me three frances to buy a lottery ticket with? I dreamed last night that No. 41,144 was going to draw the capital prize, and I want to buy that number."

He gave the girl the three francs, and, next day, on happening to look at the report of the drawing, saw that No. 41, 144 had drawn the capital prize of 518, 652, 85 lire, or to speak more accurately, \$100,000.

Returning quietly to the house he concealed his emotion and said to the servant girl: is cmotion and said to the servant girl: "Susan; I have long observed with approba-tion your piety, beauty, modesty, skill in the art of cookery and other good qualities cal-culated to adorn the highest station. Be mine. Let me lead you to the hymencal altar. No

delay. Just as you are. "Honest Injun?" said the blushing virgin. You bet. I swear by yonder silver spoon that tops with beauty all the fruitpie top"-"Then count me in, and regard me here

after in the light of your turtle-dove."

"Hasten, then, Susan; put on your bonnet and shawl and let us take a walk around the block to the old friar's cell, where we shall be made one."

In a few minutes the bride-elect returned, clad in a red shawl, with a black velvet bonnet trimmed with sunflower and Victoria regina. In a few minutes more the ceremony had been performed, and the twain were one. They returned to the house, when the husband carelessly took up the paper and said, with a well connerfeited start of surprise: "Darling, everything is bright for us upon

our wedding day. You remember the ticket in the lottery that you dreamed about and I gave you three francs to buy? Where is it,

my ownest?" "O, I didn't buy it. I spent the money for this duck of a bonnet."

Recent heavy rains in the Norfolk district of England have produced alarming inunda-tions at Norwich, where whole streets were covered with several feet of water. Thou covered with several left for water. Thou sands of the people are left homeless, and the damage is estimated at £50,000. A reiief subscription has been opened.

Mayor Latrobe, of Baltimore, has just Mayor Latrobe, of Baltimore, has just bought a doll. And this is why he did it: A day or two ago he received a letter, written in a childish hand and shockingly misspelled, but evidently sincere: "I am little hellen," it said, "and I want a little doll for Christmas and I ant got no papy to buy me any and mamma ant got no money to buy it either so I think I will not have no fun at Christmas so I think you have got lots of money so you will please buy nie a little dolly for Christmas you can get a pretty one for ten cents."

 \mathcal{RB}° Has been in business over 25 years, and has been awarded by the Provincial and Local Fairs 178 FIRST PRISES, besides Second, Third and Diplomas; also been awarded Medal and Diploma at the International Exhibition in Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. FACTORY : KING ST., West of Market.